



Date: October 11, 2007

Location: Mission Mountain Market, Ronan 12:00-1:30

Introduction of Members

Members Present: Theresa Jones, St. Luke Hospital; Pat Hulla, Regional Director, Region 1; Patti Patterson, Mission Valley One Stop Workforce Center; Marilyn Becker, Office of Public Assistance; Adina Fox, Ronan Telephone Company; Wayne Fuchs, St. Luke Hospital; Tina Oliphant, Lake County Community Development; Todd Erickson, Mission Valley One Stop Workforce Center.

Members Absent/Excused:

Mike McReynolds, UPS Store; Lettie Neuman, Kicking Horse Job Corps; Pat Hulla, Job Service; Paula Weaver, DRS TSI, Inc; Rick Molenda, Western Bee; Emily Peck, Polson High School; Nikki Montesano, Jore; Jim Hinshaw, Country Foods; Audi Moran, S&K Technologies; Karen Dellwo, First Interstate Bank; Michelle Cope.

Treasure report: \$1840.22

Approval of September Minutes: Approved as written.

Old Business:

Todd Erickson discussed the immigration update. Local offices will be more involved in the H2A and H2B process. Local offices have done the H2A process which includes housing inspections and follow up on any issues that have arose from the inspections. Now local offices will be more involved with the H2B process as well. The local offices will play more of a roll of a resource for employers who are looking at recruiting migrant workers. We will provide appropriate resources and information and post the job openings for the length of time required. The local Workforce Center will not be doing any recruitment; we are only a resource.

One of the requirements to bring in migrants workers is that the employer has to prove that there are no qualified US citizens to fill the position. If a qualified US citizen applies for this position the employer is obligated to hire the US citizen. Todd will be able to help an employer sort through the regulations regarding this.

Social Security number tracking is also being examined at the federal level. Homeland Security has suggested that employers be mandated to verify all social security number prior to hire. This process could take up to one week or more. At this time this has not been implemented. Currently, all employers are to keep doing the I9's and submitting as usual.

The sign up sheet for the current year's monthly meeting presentations was sent around the table. December and April are still open if anyone is interested.

New Business:

Career Committee Update:

The committee met with the Polson High School counselors to discuss a forum that will be held on March 12. This will be a half day forum with the entire student body. The idea is to meet first as one group and discuss the application process, then break out into groups which will meet in the class rooms and do mock interviews. The idea is to get as many employers as possible to partake in this interview process. The committee felt it would be good for the students to actually interview with employers. Lastly the students would then return to the auditorium for the final session on how to keep the job, basic soft skills, etc.

The Workshop Committee is working on bringing in a motivational speaker in the spring. It was suggested that he also speak to the high school students. The counselors were open to the idea, as long as the speaker could engage with high school students.

The committee felt it would be good to bring this idea up to other area schools if this forum is a success.

The SKC Job Fair will be March 4th, 2008. Todd has been in contact with the SKC committee. The plan is for JSEC to partner with SKC for the 2008 Job Fair. It will be open to the general public, college students, senior students, etc.

ABC Clinic update:

Patti reported that there was a net profit of \$685.97. There is still one outstanding payment of \$70.00 at this time. There was a good turnout for this workshop, and the overall surveys were rated very high.

Pat Hulla – Regional Director Region 1 report.

Charlie Wright, MT Department of Commerce visited the local offices. This is a good opportunity for the Workforce Center and the Chamber of Commerce to partner. Charlie discussed the 2007 Workforce Training Grant that is available to all employers in Montana who need to hire one or more employees. \$5000.00 in training dollars may be available for each new hire. If you are interested in finding out more please contact the local Workforce Center.

The local office is still working on getting a SCORE committee together in Lake County. This is a committee that can assist with the paperwork for the training grant. You can learn more about score at www.score.org. The website describes the organization as follows: SCORE “Counselors to America’s Small Business” is a nonprofit association dedicated to entrepreneur education and the formation, growth and success of small business nationwide.

Tina Oliphant added that there is a lot of money available and it is very flexible. One note Tina added about the grant is that it does not contribute to employee wages during the training period. The grant pays only for training. The wage also has to be comparative to the County wage average, which is \$12.85 per hour.

The Bureau Chief, Gary Warren, Andy Lublin, Assistant Bureau Chief and Ingrid Childress, Workforce Service Division Administrator will be visiting the local offices next week. They will be discussing the future vision of the local offices and how we can better serve employers. The local offices will be working more with employers, more case management for job seekers, etc. Staff will be attending training at the end of November.

PRESENTATION

DVD – Steve Beck, Motivational Speaker

Discussion was held on the possibility of bringing Steve in for a spring seminar on Customer Service. Todd has been in contact with him but does not have a cost or time frame. It was discussed that we would need to get sponsorships in order to bring Steve in to the community. It was agreed to pursue the seminar.

Wayne Fuchs would like more information when we find out the cost and the time.

Marilyn Becker has the promotional DVD; it is available to anyone who would like to view it.

Wayne Fuchs, St. Luke wanted everyone to be aware of the Splash at Mission Mountain Medicine, in Polson, Thursday Oct. 18th from 5-7pm. Everyone is invited.

Adjourned

Next meeting will be in Polson at Wheat Montana, November 8th 12:00-1:30

Presentation: Web Brown, MT Chamber Choices Health Insurance

www.chamberchoices.com